

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-6 will remain in the application. Claims 2 and 7-15 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify a variable-displacement vane pump comprising a ring which houses a rotor having vanes which are movable radially inside respective slots formed in said rotor; and a channel connecting said first control chamber to an oil inlet permanently at atmospheric pressure; said ring comprising a projection having a nose projecting inside said first control chamber, wherein movement of the ring causes said nose to selectively close said channel.

Support for these features is provided in the specification as follows. A variable-displacement vane pump comprising a ring which houses a rotor having vanes which are movable radially inside respective slots formed in said rotor is illustrated as item 10\* in 2-5. A channel connecting the first control chamber to an oil inlet permanently at atmospheric pressure is shown as item 40 in FIGs. 2-5 and described in at least page 10, lines 21-23. FIGs. 2-5 further show a ring comprising a projection 21 having a nose 21a projecting inside a first control chamber 22, wherein movement of the ring causes said nose to selectively close said channel.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 3, and has been further amended to conform to the language of claim 3.

### **Claim Objections**

The objection to claim 7 in Section 3 of the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 7.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

In Section 5 of the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action, claim 1, and by dependency claims 2-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is traversed through the amendment of Claim 1.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

In Section 8 of the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action, claims 1-11 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hardy US 2,716,946.

This rejection is moot with respect to claims 2 and 7-15, which have been canceled.

The rejection of claims 1 and 3-6 is traversed through the amendment of claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Hardy because Hardy does not disclose a channel connecting a first control chamber to an oil inlet permanently at atmospheric pressure, with the ring comprising a projection having a nose projecting inside the first control chamber, wherein movement of the ring causes the nose to selectively close said channel.

In a telephone interview on June 14, 2011 between the Examiner and Robert Lenart, it was agreed that Hardy does not disclose a channel connecting a first control chamber to an oil inlet permanently at atmospheric pressure; with the ring comprising a projection having a nose projecting inside said first control chamber, said nose being able to selectively close said channel, so that said ring is moved to establish a balance eccentricity value giving a desired oil flow to said user device. Since the amended claim 1 includes substantially similar language, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Hardy.

Since claims 3-6 depend from claim 1, the rejection of claims 3-6 is traversed for the reasons set forth above with respect to the traversal of the rejection of claim 1.

**Conclusion**

Allowance of the application is requested. In the event that any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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